

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03

IO-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /113 W

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R 201127 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8408

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT PK

SUBJECT: INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: CONFLICT OVER  
CONSTITUTION

REF: ISLAMABAD 2226

BEGIN SUMMARY: POLITICAL OPPOSITION PLANS BOYCOTT OF  
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MARCH 23 UNLESS IN INTERIM BHUTTO  
BOWS TO ULTIMATUM SUBMITTED RE MODIFICATIONS IN DRAFT  
CONSTITUTION. BHUTTO MEETING SHORTLY WITH NATIONAL  
AWAMI PARTY LEADERS FROM BALUCHISTAN, WHICH HAS BECOME  
MAJOR OBSTACLE TO BHUTTO BOTH IN SECURING ALL PROVINCE  
CONSENSUS ON CONSTITUTION AND IN OBTAINING COMPATIBLE  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY

1. POLITICAL OPPOSITION DRAWN TOGETHER AS UNITED  
DEMOCRATIC FRONT ( UDF) SUBMITTED WRITTEN PROPOSAL TO

BHUTTO LATE LAST WEEK OUTLINING OPPOSITION' S MINIMUM  
DEMANDS REGARDING CONSTITUTION NOW UNDER DEBATE IN  
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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. ALTHOUGH TEXT OF LETTER HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED BY EITHER SIDE, EMBASSY INFORMED BY OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN IN ASSEMBLY, SHAUKAT HYAT, THAT OPPOSITION SEEKS AT LEAST FOUR MAJOR CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION: SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE ON NO- CONFIDENCE MOTION ( ALTHOUGH OPPOSITION WILLING RETAIN PROCEDURE REQUIRING SUBMISSION OF NAME OF SUCCESSOR PRIME MINISTER IN ANY SUCH MOTION); LEGISLATION AFFECTING PROVINCES TO REQUIRE APPROVAL OF MAJORITY IN SENATE OR FAILING THIS, MAJORITY OF COMBINED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SENATE; LEGISLATION SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT BY COURTS TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY WITH ISLAM; PROVISIONS REGARDING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TO BE STRENGTHENED. PRESS REPORTED ADDITIONAL DEMANDS RE INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION. NOT KNOWN WHETHER UDF INCLUDED IN LETTER OTHER DEMANDS ANNOUNCED AFTER FRONT' S FORMATION: RESTORATION OF NAP/ JUI GOVERNMENTS IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER; RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS; WITHDRAWAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS; AND CESSATION OF PROPAGANDA AGAINST OPPOSITION IN PUBLIC- OWNED MEDIA.

2. POLITICAL OPPOSITION HAS CO- OPTED BHUTTO' S ORIGINAL MARCH 23 TARGET DATE FOR PASSAGE OF CONSTITUTION ( WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY SLIPPED TO APRIL 21) AS ITS OWN DEADLINE FOR BHUTTO TO REACH COMPROMISE ON ITS ULTIMATUM. WITHOUT SUCH COMPROMISE, OPPOSITION CURRENTLY INTENDS TO BOYCOTT ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS BEGINNING MARCH 23 AND TO CONDUCT CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AGAINST CONSTITUTION. POLITICAL OPPOSITION HOPES HOLD PUBLIC MEETING IN RAWALPINDI AFTERNOON MARCH 23 AS WELL AS MEETINGS IN OTHER PROVINCIAL CENTERS TO ANNOUNCE ITS NEXT MOVE. RAWALPINDI MEETING WILL FOLLOW LARGE PAKISTAN DAY MILITARY PARADE SAME MORNING WHICH IS SURE TO DRAW CROWDS TO DOWNTOWN RAWALPINDI FROM MILES AROUND, ENHANCING POSSIBILITY OF LOCALIZED DISORDER IF OPPOSITION RALLY STRIKES TRUCLENT TONE.

3. BALUCHISTAN IS EMERGING AS MAJOR HURDLE TO BHUTTO IN ATTAINING HIS APPARENT GOAL OF ACHIEVING AT LEAST TOKEN SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTION FROM ALL PROVINCES, AND POLITICAL IMPASSE WITHIN PROVINCE IS ALSO LIKELY SOURCE OF SOME EMBARRASSMENT TO HIM. AT PRESENT ALL FIVE BALUCHISTAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBERS OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY REMAIN FIRM IN OPPOSITION

CAMP DESPITE EXTENSIVE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THEIR SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH BHUTTO RECENTLY INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO STICK BY HIS RECENTLY APPOINTED GOVERNOR, AKBAR BUGTI, LATTER HAS BEEN UNABLE BREAK NAP/ JUI MAJORITY IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY AND FORM PRO- BHUTTO CABINET. APPEARS AT THIS TIME NAP/ JUI COOPERATION STILL ESSENTIAL AT THIS TIME NAP/ JUI COOPERATION STILL ESSENTIAL TO FORM ANY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN QUETTA. BHUTTO HAS MET WITH FORMER BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR BIZENJO ( NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY) AND HAS ASKED FOR FURTHER MEETING WITH HIM, FORMER CHIEF MINISTER MENGAL AND NAP BALUCHISTAN PRESIDENT MARRI ON MARCH 22. GIVEN PERSONAL EMNITY BETWEEN BHUTTO AND MENGAL AND BHUTTO' S RECENT DISMISSAL OF HIS MINISTRY, QUESTIONABLE WHETHER MENGAL WILL EVEN MEET BHUTTO, MUCH LESS COMPROMISE ON ANYTHING SHORT OF RESTORATION STATUS QUOTE ANTE. BOYCOTT OF CONSTITUTION BY ALL BALUCHISTAN REPRESENTATIVES IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL BE AWKWARD POLITICALLY FOR BHUTTO SINCE BALUCHISTAN NAP CAN THEN CLAIM THAT VIEWS OF THIS PROVINCE HAVE BEEN IGNORED BY GOVERNMENT MAJORITY. BALUCH BOYCOTT, MOREOVER, WOULD LEND WEIGHT TO OPPOSITION CHARGES OF DICTATORIAL TACTICS BY BHUTTO.

4. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NEITHER BHUTTO NOR HIS KEY AIDES HAVE MET WITH NAP NATIONAL LEADER WALI KHAN. NWFP GOVERNOR KHATTAK REPORTEDLY HAS WON OVER SUFFICIENT VOTES IN FRONTIER ASSEMBLY TO FORM PRO- BHUTTO MAJORITY, WITH CONTINUED DELAY IN NAMING CABINET APPARENTLY STEMMING FROM RIVALRIES OVER DIVISION OF SPOILS. NAP/ JUI PROVINCIAL COALITION, NOW RELEGATED TO MINORITY IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY, IS NOT IN POSITION TO PRESS CLAIM FOR ITS RESTORATION TO POWER UNLIKE SITUATION PREVAILING IN BALUCHISTAN. IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, TRIBAL AND QAIYUM LEAGUE MEMBERS FROM FRONTIER ARE SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT ON CONSTITUTION, ENABLING BHUTTO TO CLAIM THAT CONSTITUTION HAS AT LEAST PARTIAL ENDORSEMENT PATHAN POPULATION.

5. CLIFF- HANGERS HAVE BECOME COMMONPLACE IN POLITICAL LIFE UNDER BHUTTO, WHOSE UNPREDICTABILITY HAS BECOME BY- WORD, AND THIS ONE CLEARLY COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLITICAL CONFRONTATION. ON OTHER HAND, BHUTTO IN PAST HAS DEMONSTRATED DEGREE OF WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL MATTERS.

DECON 3/20/74

SOBER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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